



Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

Kenosha County



County characteristics

- 273 sq. miles
- East 1/3 is urban; middle 1/3 was former wetland/prairie and is now farmland with growing urban area; west 1/3 is prairie/savanna/wetland with lakes and growing urban development.
- Experiencing rapid growth due to its proximity to Milwaukee and Chicago.
- There are 156,209 residents living in Kenosha County.



State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing

- 5,278 acres open to public hunting.
- 4,254 acres of inland water; 34 lakes, 12 streams, and 3 urban fishing ponds.

Locate DNR properties at:

http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html

Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you

- Wildlife: 1 Biologist and 1 Technician; Fisheries: 1 Biologist and 1 Technician; 3 Conservation Wardens, 1 Recreational Safety Warden
- Office: Richard Bong Recreational Area, 26313 Burlington Road, 53139

Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars

- Perform activities for the Richard Bong Managed Hunt. The managed hunt includes the maintenance of 29 waterfowl blinds including 4 ADA blinds for disabled hunters; stock approximately 8,500 pheasants a year (1990s average) 7 days a week for 52 days a year; maintain grassland habitat through brush mowing and controlled burning.
- Perform Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance in the Paddock Lake Area.
- Control exotic and invasive species such as purple loosestrife, wild parsnip, thistle, buckthorn, and box elder to assure quality native habitat.
- Stock over 313,000 trout and salmon annually in waters off Kenosha County in support of the Lake Michigan sport fishery.
- Home of Chinook salmon rearing pond operated by the Kenosha Sportfishing and Conservation Association in cooperation with DNR fisheries staff.
- Kenosha County Wardens made over 250 arrests for fish and game violations in 2004.
- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites, build and maintain parking areas.



Activities continued...

- Monitor local wildlife populations of ducks, geese, deer and grassland birds.
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and West Nile Virus.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups.
- Promote angler education programs through free fishing day activities at Bong Recreation Area.
- Perform fish surveys to evaluate fish stocking programs and fishing regulations, and track changes in fish communities.

Kenosha County Conservation Snapshots

- Home Port of 44 Lake Michigan Charter Boats.
- Over 37,000 Trout and Salmon Harvested from Kenosha Waters of Lake Michigan Annually.
- 3 Deer and Turkey Registration Stations.
- 4 DNR Boat Launch Facilities on Powers, Silver, Vern Wolf and Camp lakes.



Fish and Wildlife Stocking Summary

- Stock pheasants on New Munster Public Hunting Ground and Richard Bong Recreational Area.
- Stock more than 313,000 trout and salmon annually in waters off Kenosha County in support of the Lake Michigan sport fishery.
- In 2003 and 2004 stocked 3 lakes, 3 urban ponds and 2 streams with 53,670 walleyes, 2,875 largemouth bass, 1,856 musky, 7,500 rainbow trout, and 400 brown trout.
- Restore and rehabilitate Vern Wolf Lake, which had degraded into a carp, bullhead and stunted panfish fishery, into a high quality bass and panfish dominated warm water fishery.

County Success Stories

- Recent dam removal project on the Pike River has resulted in a substantial increase in fishable river miles for Lake Michigan migratory trout and salmon species.
- Participated in a joint project with the Fisheries, Wildlife and Parks programs to rehabilitate Vern Wolf Lake on the Richard Bong Recreation Area. Purpose of the project was to eliminate exotics (e.g., Eurasian Milfoil, rough fish, etc.) improve habitat for fish wildlife, and increase recreational opportunities for the public. Wildlife work entailed brushing and burning near the shore area to improve habitat for animals such as waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, muskrats, and mink.

Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
 - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management

Want to Learn More? Go to dnr.wi.gov/invest

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